(b) if se, what is the number of such institutions;

(c) whether it is a fact that india ranks lli in terras of invesment in education as a percentage of G.N.P., and

(d) what are the plans to raise investment on primary, secondary, backward classes and women education ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) University Grants Commission ippevkUs financial assistance to all eligible universities •and colleges for recruitment -of staff, purchase -af books, journals and equipment, construction of buildings and hostels. The Commission also provides financial .assistance nnder various Schemes. Afcprding to the information furnished by UGC, at Ptesent, 96 eligible Universities *ad .about 4100,eligible colleges al© receiv-ing financial (assistance from the Commission for .general .development as well as under specific Schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The 8th Plan has given priority to MBtverss&stian «f elementary Education. The outlay for Elementary Education during :8th "Plan has been increased to Rs. 8936.46 crores from 7th Man expenditure of Rs. 2849.41 crores. For Secondary .Education,,««tlay during 8th plan has been fijad at Rs. 2497.79 ereres as compared to Rs. 1831.51 crores expenditure during seventh plan. Socio-Economic Empower ment of Women by providing them educa tion is one of the strategies of development of edncation in the 8th Plan. Mobilising Women's Groups with involvement of local eo tocreate lawurable environ ment for Wfcsaen JBiueatien is being imple mented under the scheme of Mahila Sama-khaya with external.funding. The expendi ture under the 7th plan for the scheme of • Mahila Samakhaya was Rs. 3.04 crores \ aa»iost srfwch the 8th Plan outlay has been , fixed at Rs. 51.00 crores:.

Opening of Regional Offices of U.G.C.

1908. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 636 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to open Zonal Offices of University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, what are the criteria to start such zonal offices;

(c) whether any State Government has proposed to open such a zonal office; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and if not, by vhen it is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the Commission has taken a decision, in principle, to set up its regional offices in different parts of the country. Suggestions have been received from some State Governments as well as various other quarters for setting up of such regional offices at certain places in these States. No decision in regard to the location or the time frame for setting up of these offices has been taken due to the present constraint of financial resources.

Reports of Mass Cheating in Delhi University

1909. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been reports of mass cheating in the various examinations conducted by Delhi University this year;